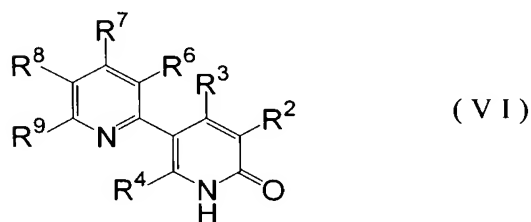


IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 30 to page 4, line 9, as follows:

The present invention relates to

[1] a production method of a 5-(2'-pyridyl)-2-pyridone derivative represented by the formula (VI)



wherein

R², R³ and R⁴

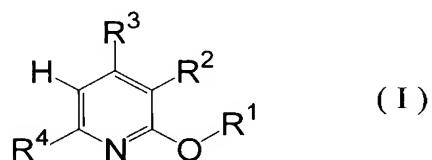
are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s), or R² and R³ optionally form, together with a carbon atom bonded thereto, a ring optionally having substituent(s), and

R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹

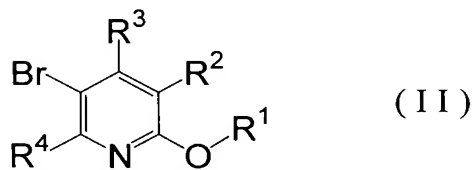
are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), or R⁶ and R⁷, R⁷ and R⁸, or R⁸ and R⁹ optionally form, together with a carbon atom bonded thereto, a ring optionally having substituent(s)

[hereinafter to be abbreviated as 5-(2'-pyridyl)-2-pyridone derivative (VI)],

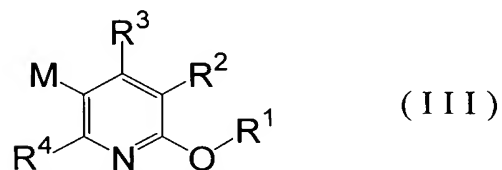
which comprises reacting a pyridine derivative represented by the formula (I)



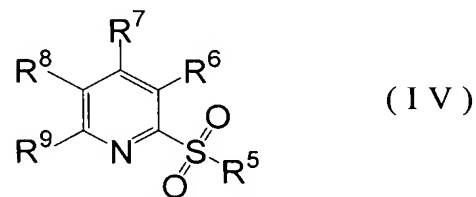
wherein R¹ is an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), and R², R³ and R⁴ are as defined above [hereinafter to be abbreviated as pyridine derivative (I)] with a brominating agent to give a 5-bromopyridine derivative represented by the formula (II)



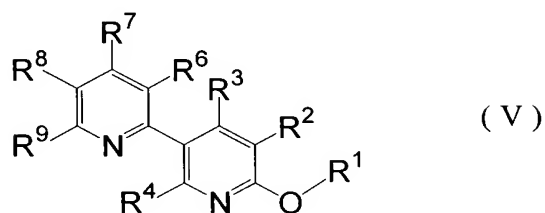
wherein R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are as defined above [hereinafter to be abbreviated as 5-bromopyridine derivative (II)], reacting the obtained 5-bromopyridine derivative (II) with a metallizing agent to give an organometallic compound represented by the formula (III)



wherein M is a metal atom belonging to group 1 [[or 2]] of the periodic table, ~~MgCl~~, or ~~MgBr~~ and R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are as defined above [hereinafter to be abbreviated as organometallic compound (III)], reacting the obtained organometallic compound (III) with a 2-sulfonylpyridine derivative represented by the formula (IV)



wherein R⁵ is an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), and R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹ are as defined above [hereinafter to be abbreviated as 2-sulfonylpyridine derivative (IV)], to give a 6-alkoxy-3,2'-bipyridine derivative represented by the formula (V)



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9 are as defined above [hereinafter to be abbreviated as 6-alkoxy-3,2'-bipyridine derivative (V)], and hydrolyzing the obtained 6-alkoxy-3,2'-bipyridine derivative (V),

[2] the production method of the above-mentioned [1], wherein the organometallic compound is a compound of the formula (III) wherein M is a lithium atom ~~or a magnesium atom~~, [[and]]

[3] the production method of the above-mentioned [1] or [2], wherein, in the formula (VI), R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9 are each a hydrogen atom[.]],

[4] the production method of [1] or [2] above, wherein, in the formula (I), R^1 is a methyl group,

[5] the production method of [1] or [2], wherein, in the formula (IV), R^5 is a phenyl group,

[6] the production method of [1], wherein the metallizing agent is an n-butyllithium,

[7] the production method of [1], wherein the brominating agent is a bromine, and

[8] the production method of [1],

wherein

R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9 of the formula (VI) are each a hydrogen atom;

R^1 of the formula (I) is a methyl group;

the brominating agent is a bromine;

the metallizing agent is an n-butyllithium;

the organometallic compound is a compound of the formula (III) wherein M is a lithium atom; and

R^5 of the formula (IV) is a phenyl group.

Please delete the paragraph at page 4, lines 10-12, as follows:

~~In a preferable embodiment of the present invention, a compound of the formula (III) wherein M is a metal atom belonging to group 1, a magnesium atom, MgBr, or MgCl is used as an organometallic compound (III).~~

Please delete the paragraphs inserted by the preliminary amendment at page 4, line 13 as follows:

~~In a more preferable embodiment of the present invention, a compound of the formula (III) wherein M is a lithium atom, a sodium atom, a magnesium atom, MgBr, or MgCl is used as an organometallic compound (III).~~

~~In a most preferable embodiment of the present invention, a compound of the formula (III) wherein M is a lithium atom, a magnesium atom, or MgBr is used as an organometallic compound (III).~~